

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 8-12, 16, 27 and 28. Claims 1-31 are currently pending in this application.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. SUMMARY OF OFFICE

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.84(p)(5) because of a discrepancy regarding reference numerals "120" and "37".

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 8-13, 16-20 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because, in the Examiner's opinion, the claims failed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5-7, 14, 15, 21-27, and 29-31 are in condition for allowance.

II. REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

The Examiner objected to the drawings and requested that Applicant add reference numerals 120 and 37 to the drawings. It is respectfully submitted that reference numeral "120" was included in Figure 3 as originally-filed. Accordingly, there is no need to amend the drawings by adding any additional reference numeral "120".

The Examiner has correctly noted a discrepancy with regard to reference numeral "37". In the description, Applicant inadvertently labeled two different elements with reference numeral 37, namely "ears" and the "valve opening". The "ears" should have been labeled reference numeral "137" as indicated in Figures 1 and 3 as originally filed. The "ears" were inadvertently labeled "37" in Figure 4 and at page 19, line 10 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicant has corrected the drawings by replacing reference numeral "37" with reference numeral "137" in Figure 4 as indicated in red on the attached drawing sheet. Also, reference numeral "137" replaced reference numeral "37" when indicating the "ears" on page 19.

It should be noted that reference numeral "37" is correctly indicating the valve opening in Figure 3 as originally-filed.

No new matter has been introduced by the aforementioned drawing amendment nor was any drawing amendment made because of a rejection based on art. Applicant believes he has met all of the drawing requirements under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) and respectfully requests the Examiner's authorization to permanently amend Figure 4 accordingly.

Applicant amended claims 1, 5, 8-12, 16 and 28 in response to the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Although the Examiner indicated in the outstanding Office Action that claim 13 stood rejected because of the lack of antecedent basis regarding the term "isolator assembly", Applicant believes that the Examiner meant to indicate that the phrase "isolator assembly" was used in claim 27. Accordingly, in addition to amendments to the above-mentioned claims, Applicant also amended claim 27.

The claim amendments by Applicant generally consist of ensuring that all elements were introduced properly and to address all rejections based on a lack of antecedent basis. No claim amendments were made as a result of a rejection based on art. In fact, the Examiner has not rejected any of the claims in the present application based on art.

Applicant believes he has addressed all of the issues raised by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant wishes to again thank the Examiner for his time and consideration in reviewing this application and for the indication that claims 5-7, 14, 15, 21-27, and 29-31 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended the drawings and the claims in order to address the issues raised by the Examiner. No amendments were made as a result of a rejection or objection based on art.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite the examination procedure. Kindly note that the undersigned attorney for Applicant has moved. The new contact information is shown on page 1 of this communication and below next to the attorney's signature.

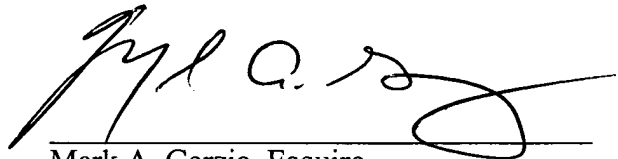
Enclosed is a self-addressed, postage pre-paid postcard for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to date stamp in order to indicate receipt of this communication.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance indicating that claims 1-31 are allowed .

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth A. Alley

Date: 10 NOVEMBER 2003



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this communication, along with any paper or fee indicated as being enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

10 NOVEMBER 2003

Date


Mark A. Garzia